ARAMBE FLAME

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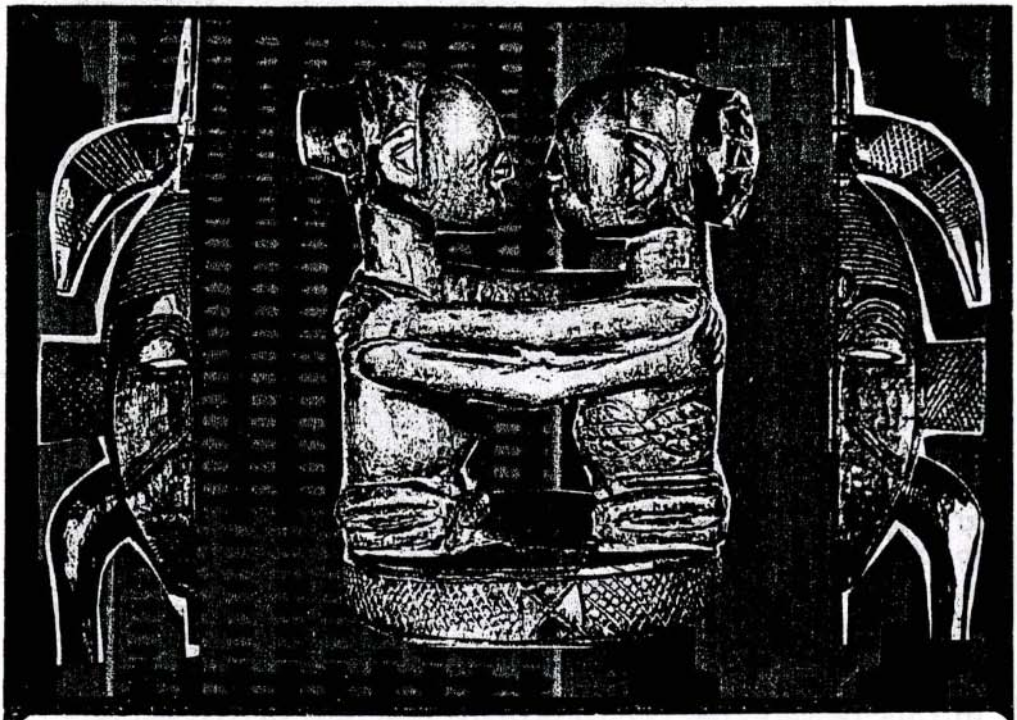

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The HARAMBEE FLAME is the monthly newsletter of the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization(Nebraska State Pen chapter). Ours is a pan-Africanist publication, meaning that we view all people of African descent as one African people, having certain basic interests in common. Also, the HARAMBEE FLAME attempts to be Africentric, in that, through study of the history, cultures, and traditional values of African people, we seek to have and cultivate an African way of looking at things.

The main purposes of the HARAMBEE FLAME are to stimulate and inform. We list "stimulate" first because, more than anything else, we want our readers to be moved to question their/your own ideas, lives, and the circumstances in which we live and to challenge those things that must be challenged in order for us to move from a condition of mental and spiritual servitude and physical dependence upon Caucasian institutions to a state of collective self-determination. Toward this purpose, we present commentaries, poems, etc. These do not necessarily represent the official positions of the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization.

The HARAMBEE FLAME provides information because wise people want to know what's going on and because certain kinds of information can stimulate the mind, inspire people to want to act, and influence them to pursue proper understanding so that the actions they take will be as effective as possible. The main vehicle we use to provide information is our "From Other Sources" feature in which we make an effort to provide news about the problems we African people are confronted by and the steps we are taking to resolve them. In this feature, we try to provide coverage of the activities of African people and developments affecting us in the U.S., the nations of Africa, and elsewhere. In "Commentary," we offer analysis of and views about current events and developments.

We encourage you to send your comments, essays, poems, etc. to HARAMBEE FLAME; Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization; P.O. Box 2500; Lincoln, NE.; 68542-2500.

COMMENTARY

As this is being written, the heads of the United Nations inspection teams charged with insuring that the government of Iraq has destroyed its chemical and biological weapons and is not developing such weapons and/or nuclear weapons have reported to the U.N. that they have not found evidence that Iraq has "weapons of mass destruction" or that it is trying to develop or procure new ones. Despite this, the U.S. government administration is proclaiming that Iraq **does** have these weapons and is insisting that, in order to avoid being "disarmed" by force, the government of Iraq must prove that it does **not** have such weapons.

Okay, let's think about this for a minute. Suppose the police come to your house and accuse you of having a sawed-off shotgun and tell you that, if you don't prove that you **don't** have one, they're going to enter your house, find the gun, and take it. If you tell the cops you don't have a sawed-off shotgun, there is no way you can prove you're telling the truth, short of tearing your house down and breaking it up into tiny fragments. Even then, the police could accuse you of having the gun in someone else's possession. On the other hand, if the cops see you with a gun that is legal to have, if you have it registered, and challenge you to prove that you have proper registration, all you have to do is produce the paper work. In short, it is hard--and, often, impossible--to prove a negative. So what the Bush regime is really telling Saddam Hussein is that the U.S. military forces are going to attack Iraq, regardless of what the Iraqi government says or does.

In the meantime, Bush and the gang are shooting for a U.N. Security Council passage of a resolution that would give the government of Iraq until March 17th. to disarm(rid itself of weapons it maintains it no longer has) or face U.N.-sanctioned military force. But the U.S. plans have apparently run into a snag. France is making it evident that it will veto any such resolution. And wheter they intend to use their veto option or not, Russia, Germany, and China have pretty strongly indicated that they are opposed to any automatic "triggering mechanism" for the use of military force.

If a vote is actually taken, the U.S.-sponsored resolution is vetoed, and the Bush regime sends troops into Iraq anyway, the message of the U.S. to the U.N. will be, very simply: It's my way or the highway.

So what's the Bush administration's beef with Iraq? We know that it can't be a matter of that country's alleged possession of weapons of mass destruction because Bush has no proof and little evidence to support the allegation. Secondly, the U.S. can't be really opposed to nations having such weapons because **it** has them--huge stockpiles of them: atomic bombs, hydrogen bombs, neutron bombs, as well as a variety of chemical and biological weapons. Several other nations have the same and/or similar weapons: Britain, France, Israel, Russia, India, etc. And, thirdly, if Bush and the gang truly believe the Iraqi government has lethal biological and/or chemical weapons, then they would have to believe that that government will use them if it is forced into a corner by an armed invasion.

This business of Iraq's supposed possession of lethal chemical and biological weapons is nothing more than a pretext, a fig leaf, for the Bush regime to cover its actual agenda. But how are we supposed to know what that real agenda is, specifically? We know that U.S. political and financial shot-callers see it in their interests for the Bush regime and corporate America to retain control--both visible and invisible--over what they deem to be an adequate present and future supply of oil. We know that, since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the U.S. government has seen itself and been perceived by by much of the rest of the world as the **one** remaining "super power." The U.S.' apparent willingness to flip the bird to the U.N. and launch an invasion against Iraq, with the aid of Britain and other junior partners/flunkies, could be interpreted as a flexing of "super power" muscle, another testing of the waters by the U.S. to see how much it can get away with. It may be that France and Germany--considered to be strong U.S. allies--have interpreted this striking out on its own as a U.S power move and a declaration on its part that its authority must be obeyed or, at least, not challenged. The French and German governments, and probably others as well, probably resent this presumptuousness on the part of Bush and the gang. Their public opposition to the U.S. stance on Iraq may be, in part, a way of telling Bush they don't appreciate being

treated like **junior** partners and being expected to just automatically go along with U.S.-devised programs.

From newspapers, magazines, television programs, and other visual media, we've been getting loads of graphics lately on new and modified weapons systems developed by and for the U.S. military. These bombs, missiles, planes, guidance and tracking devices, etc. are presented as testaments to the military might and technical wizardry of the U.S. as Roman Empire reincarnated. If U.S. forces do attack Iraq, Iraq will serve as a testing ground for these lethal "toys" of war. The Iraqis, as people of color, will be used, like the Japanese in World War II and other people of color since, as test subjects.

But how much of this is part of the U.S. government's real agenda? In these times of speech-writers, political focus-groups, spin-doctors, and so forth, we can't have much confidence in our ability to figure out what this government's actual agenda is, based on the words of Bush, Rumsfeld, Powell, Rice, Cheney, and other officials. Maybe there's something going on in and/or outside of Iraq that we know nothing about. We have to listen carefully to words, be mindful of past U.S. government actions, and keep an eye on world events and developments.

When we listen to this government's words, especially as they exit the mouth of George W. Bush, we do get some pretty strong hints as to his mind-set and that of his administration. We are hearing words such as "good" and "evil," "civilized," etc. When we listen to these words and take note of this administration's policies and actions, then put all this into a historical context, what we can see is the continuation of a European(Caucasian) historical tradition in which the European emperial leader believes that he has a god-given right to rule--especially, to rule the darker-skinned people of the world--and that **his** people are the epitome of civilization and rightness. Furthermore, operating out of self-righteous and hypocritical arrogance, he uses words that make his desire to have dominion over the world sound like he intends to bring to the world the "blessings" of the rule he aims to impose.

Check out the following passage from Marimba Ani's powerfully

insightful book, YURUGU: AN AFRICAN-CENTERED CRITIQUE OF EUROPEAN CULTURAL THOUGHT AND BEHAVIOR and consider it as you reflect on the rhetoric of the U.S. regime and observe its actions:

> "The self-image, which Euro-America has inherited from its European ancestors, of the conqueror who 'frees', is accompanied by a value that becomes part of European ideology. This 'freedom' is defined in terms of individualism and the license to 'achieve' no matter what the cost to others. This peculiarly capitalist 'morality' is the hand-maiden of American imperialism. But European-Americans are following a long-established tradition in this pattern of cultural/political behavior. Charles Kingsley writing in the mid-nineteenth century said that the English were Teutons with a universal mission: 'The welfare of the Teutonic race is the welfare of the world'. And, of course, they had been chosen by 'God'. The American president Woodrow Wilson would make the world 'safe' for 'democracy'. Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan created policemen. The concept of being self-appointed leaders of the world, which obligates people of European descent to 'free' others, is part of the logic of a self-image linked in mythology to the ancient hordes of the German forests...It is out of this cultural tradition that the concepts of 'freedom', 'liberty', and 'free enterprise', 'the pursuit' of 'whatever'--associated with the Western world and Western value--were born."

Should the U.S. military attack Iraq, as it appears that it will, the level of danger to those representing U.S. institutions abroad and those of us living here will probably rise, as groups who feel hatred toward the U.S. government will feel they have more reason for their hatred. And the jeopardy that Africans and other people of color in this country were in during the September 11, 2001 may wind up greater, due to the high visibility of Africans who are out front, leading the songs of war--namely, Condoleeza Rice and Colin Powell. Their roles as spokespersons for U.S. aggression might well give the impression to people in other parts of the world that we support what these mouth-pieces are saying.

-Editor

FROM OTHER SOURCES

Internet, a Marketplace for European-Supremacist Products

"...eBay, which bills itself as the world's largest on-line auction seller, lists dozens of racially vile collectibles that mug Black Americans...eBay's huge cash cow merchant service, Pay Pal, allows businesses and groups to set up accounts to sell items on-line with Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover cards.

"The Ku Klux Klan(kukluxklan.org) and a group that specializes in Nazi, Klan and white power collectibles (bidnazi.com) have taken full advantage of eBay's see-no-evil policy toward the sale of hate items...

"Another, offers the cd. "Keep the Hate Alive," by Racist Redneck Rebels. The cd comes complete with a cover picture of a black man with a rope around the neck. It includes a full color booklet, described as 'beautiful' and song tracks such as 'The Nigger Crematory', 'Jungle Bunny', 'Like a Nigger on Payday'..."

-from "Internet Firm Offers E-Commerce Hatred," page 24, March 11 THE FINAL CALL(Chicago, IL.)

Coalition of Activists and Groups Calls for a Turn-Off-the-Radio Day

"A citywide radio and television blackout of music-oriented stations that air programming 'filled with music and comments that express only negative, violent and denigrating ideas that create destructive emotional climates in the Black community' was set at Final Call press time.

"'Turn Off The Radio Day' was to occur March 5 and targeted radio stations Power 105, Hot 97, WBLS, WRKS and music television outlets BET and MTV.

"A coalition of activists and groups--uniting as part of the National Leadership Conference founded by radio activist Bob Law--organized the day...

"'We are urging (stations) to include in their formats the

new music from the many artists that continue to operate in the cultural tradition of Black art that reflects a fuller sense of Black contemporary reality', Mr. Law said...

"Explaining the process that evolved into calling for the 'Turn Off The Radio' day, Min. Kevin Muhammad said the group held its first meeting with the community on Jan. 14 in Harlem which featured artists who explained the difficulties of getting positive music aired...

"Both Chuck D and Mr. Bambaata[Africa Bambaata, head of the Zulu Nation] told the audience and the panel of activists to understand that the issue of what music gets played on the radio is 'deeper than just music--it is about mind control'.

"What fuels the need for mass media to 'play mind control games' is the need for the multi-national corporations that control the media industry to keep the masses of Blacks under the 'spell of ignorance', Mr. Bambaata said..."

-from "N.Y. Activists Say: Turn Off the Radio," page 36, March 11 THE FINAL CALL

24-Hour News Channel to Offer News from "Black" Perspective

"The Major Broadcasting Cable Network(MBC), the nation's only African American owned and operated cable network today announced that it is unveiling 'MBC News: The Urban Voice', the nation's first 24-hour African American news channel.

"Prominent attorney Willie E. Gary, who is also the chairman and CEO at MC, made the...announcement at a press conference ...in New York City. Among those appearing with Gary were MBC board members and principals, including boxing champion Evander Holyfield, former baseball star Cecil G. Fielder, entertainer Marion Jackson and broadcast veteran Alvin James...

"It was through the success of MBC, now available in some 24 million homes and 2,400 cities, which first brought to light the demand for programming that attracts African-American viewers.

"'During the past four years, MBC has quietly built a strong

foundation', said MBC Executive Vice President Travis Mitchell...

"Gary noted...the manner in which African Americans are portrayed on television and in films...

"'We are changing that by offering positive images', Gary said. 'It began with the MBC Network...[which] focuses on wholesome, family entertainment without negative images of African Americans. Now, MBC News will have an even broader mission. We will take the news of the day and show it with a black perspective. Everyday we will let black communities know why news developments throughout the globe are important to them..."

-from "MBC Announces Launch of Nation's First 24-Hour News Channel for African American Viewers," page 13, Feb. 20 OMAHA STAR(Omaha, NE.)

Storyteller from Omaha Takes His Tales to the Coast

"Storyteller Idu Maduli is called 'griot'. In the West African tradition, a griot is a poet and narrator of history. We usually think of a griot as an accomplished elder, inspired to memorize and pass on stories that detail our history and culture...Idu Maduli, recently relocated to Sacramento from Omaha, is an inspire, accomplished storyteller...

"Idu worked while in Nebraska with the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization, Nebraska State Penitentiary Chapter...

"Idu...tells stories through an art form known as story-acting...Idu was recently asked exactly what he does, why he enjoys it and what he hoped to achieve by telling stories...

"'...To this day, I am curious about people, events, predictions, etc.', he stated. 'So naturally, I observe the actions of everyday people. I have some sense of what makes them comfortable. It is this compassion that I convert into the action of being together for fun and self-discovery. I hope to achieve a lasting impression of joyful, peace-filled story times. Sharing our talent is manageable and story-acting is the best way I've found to do that'...

"There is a resurgence of storytelling taking place and there have been several storytelling gatherings at different homes in Sacramento recently. Perhaps this is occurring in an effort to retain a valuable part of our culture. Perhaps it is another part of the resurgence of poetry and spoken word, or a component of the slam culture...Our new griot, Idu Maduli, has made it his vocation to continue this important timeless tradition..."

-from "New Storyteller in Town," page 7, Jan./Feb. BECAUSE PEOPLE MATTER(Sacramento, CA.)

Prisons Standing Despite Falling State Budgets

..."At a time when two-thirds of the states are facing severe budget shortfalls, governors are struggling to maintain their costly and overcrowded prisons, a legacy of the get-tough-on-crime climate of the past 25 yerars. There are now nearly two million inmates...

"Many governors, like Mr. Davis[Gray Davis, governor of California], George E. Pataki of New York and Ted Kulongoski, the newly elected Democratic governor of Oregon, have made a point of maintaining or increasing prison spending, even at the expense of other social programs.

"Benjamin D. de Haan, the interim director of the Oregon Department of Corrections, asked the Legislature to close five prisons and release 3,000 prisoners to meet spending targets for the next budget cycle. Oregon's prisons are bursting at the seams because voters in 1994 approved a stiff sentencing system that lengthened the average prison stay to 40 months from 16 months...

"Governor Kulongoski and the Legislature, fearing a popular backlash, rejected Dr. de Haan's plan. Instead, the governor proposed slightly increasing the department's budget...

"Critics of Mr. Davis point to the $3 million the prison guards' union has contributed to Mr. Davis's political campaigns as a possible reason. But state officials argue that while prison populations have leveled off after more than a decade of explosive growth, costs continue to rise. In the 1990s, many states committed to expensive prison

construction plans, which must be completed. Federal court orders have mandated an end to triple-bunking and ordered the establishment of prison educational and recreational programs in some states. Health care expenses are spiraling, in part because the prison population is growing older...

"About half the states have cut spending on prisons over the past year and expect further cuts for the coming year, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures...

"Other cuts may turn out to be politically unpopular, should there be a rise in crime. Kentucky, Montana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas are releasing certain nonviolent prisoners early. Other states are trying to repeal or revise tough sentencing laws like mandatory minimums, so-called truth-in-sentencing laws, three-strikes provisions and cutbacks in parole. The laws, which states began to adopting the 1970s, resulted in a nearly sixfold increase in prison populations over the last three decades.

"Michigan voted to repeal its strict mandatory minimum sentencing laws for drug crimes, reducing the number of first-time drug offenders being locked up. Connecticut, Louisiana, Mississippi and North Dakota have altered their mandatory sentencing laws, allowing much shorter sentences for nonviolent offenders..."

-from "No Hard Time for Prison Budgets," pages 1 and 2, March PRISON ART NEWSLETTER(San Francisco, CA.)

Religion-based Motives Behind Bush Drive for War?

..."What is it then, she [Dr. Helen Caldicott] she asked, that is driving Bush--in alliance with advisors such as Paul Wolfowitz, Richard Perle and others in his inner circle--to want war with Iraq? It is a belief of right-wing, fundamentalist Christians that establishment of Jewish rule in the Holy Land is a prerequisite for the Second Coming of Christ and establishment of the Millenium. These Christians, of whom Bush is one, want to hasten Armageddon by aiding the Israelis in their efforts to remove the Palestinians from all of the land west of the Jordan. Zionist Jews such as Wolfowitz and Perle, Caldicott said, are perfectly happy to exploit this fundamentalist Christian belief to shape the Bush policies toward Israel and against the Pales-

tinians..."

-from "The New Nuclear Danger," pages 1 and 3, March NEBRASKA REPORT(Lincoln, NE.)

Bush Regime Push Toward War Seen as Imperialist Threat

"A U.S.-led attack on Iraq without the approval of the United Nations would spell doom for the world body and be another ominous sign of unilateralism in international affairs, say analysts in the region.

"Already, the United States has come under fire in many Middle Eastern countries for eyeing, not really the weapons of mass destruction Iraq is suspected of having, but the ouster of Saddam Hussein.

"If and when it pushes through, such a war could become a case study to implement U.S. unilateralism not just in the Middle East, but in other parts of the world as well, critics point out...

"...those like Scott Ritter, a former U.S. Marine and former UN weapons inspector in Iraq between 1991 and 1998, say the imminent conflict in Iraq is about Washington's 'impure motive'in targeting Saddam Hussein and marks the 'beginning of America's imperialist policy of world domination'...

"Mr. Ritter said more time is needed for the inspections in Iraq...'The recent Iraqi concessions, including allowing some scientists to be interviewed privately, means that a credible inspections process could get underway', Mr. Ritter pointed out..."

-from "The Beginning of U.S. Imperialism," page 13, Feb. 25 THE FINAL CALL

U.S. and Other Oil Companies Lined Up to Cart Off Iraqi Oil

"...This pipeline[Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan] will transform Ceyhan and its sleepy seaside environment into one of the most significant petroleum outposts in the world. The marine terminal's manager, Gurhan Unal, estimates that the Caspian,

Iraqi, and Turkish crude oil coming this way will amount to an annual [out]put of nearly a billion barrels...

"BTC will own the newly expanded portion of the BOTAS terminal, with British Petroleum holding the largest share and essentially governing the operation. The other partners are a mix of state-owned and private oil companies with stakes in Azerbaijan's offshore reserves: Conoco-Phillips, Amerada Hess, Total Fina Elf, Socar, Statoil, Unocal...

"Other key oil consortiums that stand to reap unprecedented profits...include Exxon, Chevron, Shell, Mobil, Gulf, Amoco, Arco and others..."

-from winter-spring edition of BREAK THE CHAINS(Eugene, OR.)

International Committee of the Red Cross Releases Documents on Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction in Palestine, More Than a Half Century Ago

"David Ben Gurion established a unit for biological terrorism in 1947 even before the state of Israel was established, and used it to poison the water supply in Acre and Gaza in May 1948, in an effort to produce 'mass killing', as stated in his letter to one of his operatives.

"New documents released by the International Committee of the Red Cross(ICRC) describe the spread of Typhoid epidemic in Acre and its source in daily reports from 6-16 May 1948. The victims were Palestinian civilians and British soldiers about to withdraw from Palestine. The purpose was to evacuate Acre and prevent its inhabitants from returning to their homes.

"The culprits in Gaza poisoning were caught red-handed and admitted their deeds. The location of the centre for biological terrorism in Israel, known as IIBR, is shown in photographs and its coordinates are given..."

-from "New Documents Reveal Zionist Used Biological Weapons on Palestinians," pages 7 and 8, March PRISON ART NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY NEWS

Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization African History Symposium at State Prison in Lincoln

The Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization had its annual Afrikan History symposium February 25th. The symposium was mc'd by our Eso/Alakoso Asha, Brother Mike Carr, who did a fabulous job presenting our Brothers and their talents. The program was kicked off with the traditional pouring of libation by our Alaga, Mondo, followed by the recitation of our organization creed and the Nguzo Saba(Seven Principles).

Opening comments were made by Mondo. In his own special style and flair, he talked about the importance of our history and the respect we should have for the people and events who and that have made our history. He cited examples of so-called "black" history being trivialized and coopted by institutions run by Europeans and urged that we do everything possible to make our **Afrikan History** observances meaningful.

A profile of the great Queen Hatshepsut, very nicely prepared by our Akapo, Brother Preacher, was presented by Brother Chuma. Unfortunately, Brother Preacher was unable to be here due to court proceedings. Brother Malik(Taylor) recited a very moving essay he had written about the pain of separation from family members. Brother Deckard gave a presentation entitled "From Monticello to the Ghetto," which charted a historical path from Thomas Jefferson to William Jefferson Clinton and stressed the necessity of our looking beneath the surface of historical events and not allowing ourselves to be fooled by politicians' words.

Brothers Lott and Chuma also delivered very informative historical presentations. Two of our newest and youngest brothers, Saul Hall and "'Toon" Hawkins, read poems they had just recently written on how they have been affected by participation in the organization.

General discussion and refreshments, as well the showing of a video tape of Afrikan art, capped off an evening of

Afrikanism to be remembered.

On behalf of the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization, I would like to thank the members, organizers, and non-members as well for their attendance and participation. Peace be onto all Afrikans.

-Todd Adams, Akowe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The N'Cobra(National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America) will hold its 14th National Convention June 20-22, 2003. The convention will be hosted by Paul Quinn College in Dallas, Texas. For more information, write to: N'COBRA; P.O. Box 720111; Dallas, TX. 75372. The telephone number is (972) 780-7422. E-mail address is dallasncobra@hotmail.com

PEN American Center sponsors annual writing awards for prisoners. Anyone incarcerate in a federal, state, or county prison between January 1 and September 1of each year is eligible to enter. Prizes of $100, $50, and $25 are awarded for first, second, and third place in each of the following categories:

Poetry--Submit up to 10 poems of any form, no more than 20 pages total

Fiction--Short story or excerpt from a longer piece, no more than 25 pages

Drama--Monologues, scenes, or plays intended for stage or screen, no more than 25 pages

Nonfiction--Essay, observation, journal excerpt, editorial, article, no more than 25 pages(In the nonfiction category there is an additional $50 prize awarded to a memoir writing dealing with personal experiences from childhood or later life)

Selected winning entries will be published by The Fortune Society in Fortune News. Manuscripts should be typewritten whenever possible, or legibly handwritten on $8\frac{1}{2}$ by by 11 inch paper. Authors may not submit more than one entry in each category, except in poetry. Only unpublished manuscripts will be considered, with the exception of pieces

that have appeared in publications for the prison population only. Any subject matter will be considered. Be sure to send copies of your work, not the originals. We do not return manuscripts. And always include a return address. If you win any prize including Honorable Mention, let us know where you are as your work may be used in anthologies.

Send entries to: PEN Writing Awards for Prisoners; 568 Broadway; N.Y., N.Y. 10012.

The Midwest Pages to Prisoners Project(MPPP), based in Bloomington, Indiana, sends books to prisoners free of charge. The MPPP is an all-volunteer effort that exists to alleviate the pain, boredom and attrition prisoners suffer, and to provide a direct opportunity for self-education. The MPPP operates entirely on donated books and funds. Funds are used to purchase packing supplies, postage and those books not commonly donated(new books, dictionaries, copies of the Koran, African American history, g.e.d. prep manuals, etc.). If you write to us at the address listed below, making sure to include your name, prisoner i.d. number, mailing address, and a letter with restrictions on what you can receive and specific or general requests for books, we will do our best to fill your requests.

We are requesting submissions for future publication. Help us get your words heard. Write biographies, editorials, articles, reports, poetry, manifestos, histories, etc. With your help, we would like to publish the unedited(for content) words of prison political activists and political prisoners in a periodical. Write to: Pol. Pri. Prj.; Boxcar Books 310 A So. Washington; Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

The meeting dates for the prison chapter(Lincoln) of the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization for the months of April and May are: April 5, 8, 19, and 22; May 3, 6, 17, 20, and 31. Our Saturday meetings are from 1 to 3 p.m. and our Tuesday meetings are from 6 to 8 p.m. To find out about our organization, programs, etc., call (402) 479-3379. Or write to: Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization; P.O. Box 2500; Lincoln, NE. 68542-2500.

BACK IN TIME

In Guatemala (counting each foreign corporation as a person) ***98 percent*** *of the land was owned by 142 people. As a step towards correcting this situation, Arbenz[Jacobo Arbenz, president of Guatemala] instituted a mild land reform program. This involved taking over 200 thousand acres of the land owned by the United Fruit Company...The land was not confiscated, but was to be paid for with 25 year bonds. The Guatemalan Government, as the basis for compensation, accepted the valuation of the land that the United Fruit Company itself had made for purposes of taxation--namely $600 thousand. Though this was the company's own valuation, it was rejected as not being "just compensation" and the United States Government on behalf of the United Fruit Company entered a claim for $16 million.*

The actions of the Guatemalan Government were looked upon with extreme disfavor in Washington and on June 18, 1954 a Guatemalan Colonel, Castillo Armas, invaded Guatemala from neighboring Honduras. The United States supplied the arms and military equipment as well as planes and pilots. The Arbenz Government was overthrown. In Washington Mr. Dulles declared that the success of this wholly illegal invasion added "a new and glorious chapter to the already great tradition of the American States."

The justification for this invasion(as could be expected) was that "international communism" had "gained a political base" in Guatemala--although the State Department itself in an official White Paper admitted that the number of communists in the country was probably not more than 3,000-4,000. No cabinet members were communists...

After the "putsch," the military junta suspended the land reform program, disenfranchised the "illiterate masses" and seized the property of the peasants. All the land expropriated from the United Fruit Company were restored to the company. The junta also abolished the taxes on dividends and profits payable to investors living outside the country...

Source: THE ENEMY: WHAT EVERY AMERICAN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IMPERIALISM by Felix Greene

-more on page 16

The excerpt below from Rene Lemarchand's article, The CIA in Africa: How central? How intelligent?" for instance gives a revealing account of the CIA's covert action in some African countries in the 1960s and 1970s...:

(1) the CIA played a direct role in influencing Kasavubu's decision todepose Lumumba on September 5, 1960, and in ushering in Mobutu as the "impartial arbiter" of the conflict between the President and Prime Minister; (2) CIA operations--ranging from the hiring and training of mercenaries to the procurement and maintenance of Skyraider bomber fighters and B-26s--were certainly instrumental in defeating Soumialot's Popular Liberation Army during the 1964 Zairian rebellion; (3) CIA agents, mostly operating from Rwanda, not only kept in close touch with the opposition leaders in Burundi during the "pro-Chines" interlude of 1964-65 but also provided them with "technical advice" and probably financial support in an attempt to turn back the tide; CIA agents were largely responsible for planning Moise Tshombe's hijacking in June 1967, and therefore indirectly responsible for the abortive anti-Mobutu mercenary-led coup that followed Tshombe's surrender to the Algerian authorities; (5) CIA agents played a significant role in manipulating the outcome of the 1967 elections in Somalia. The rise to power of Prime Minister Mohammed Egal was said to have been "facilitated" by "thousands of dollars in covert support to Egal and other pro-Western elements in the ruling Somalia Youth League party prior to the 1967 presidential elections"; (6) similarly, the CIA was directly involved in "facilitating the rise to power of Colonel Richard Ratsimandrava, in Madagascar, in February 1975-shortly before members of the Mobile Police Group killed him and replaced him with Didier Ratasiraka; (7) to this must be added the well-publicized and wide-ranging activities of the agency in Angola: the shipment of massive quantities of arms and ammunition through Zaire, cash payments to Holden Roberto and Jonas Savimbi, the hiring of mercenaries in Europe and the United States, and the supervision of logistical operations on the ground both in Zaire and Angola.

Source: THE MISSING MILLIONS: WHY & HOW AFRICA IS UNDERDEVELOPED by Kinfe Abraham

HARAMBEE AFRIKAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION CREED

Together we seek to know that which is us, to expand our collective consciousness of who we are and whence we come. We exalt in the fact that Africans are beautiful in our own right, rather than at the expense of any other group of people. And in the true spirit of the Swahili word, "harambee," we promote the idea that cultural awareness is germane to human growth.

NGUZO SABA(7 Principles)

Umoja - Unity
Kujichagulia - Self-determination
Ujima - Collective Work and Responsibility
Ujamaa - Cooperative Economics
Nia - Purpose
Kuumba - Creativity
Imani - Faith

HARAMBEE AFRIKAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Alaga(Chairman) - Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa

Eso/Alakoso Asha(Sgt.-at-Arms/Chairman of Cultural Affairs Committee) - Michael Carr

Olotu Eko(Education Chairman) - Chuma Akinlowan

Eleto(Administrative Chairman) - unfilled

Akapo(Treasurer) - John "Preacher" Bolden

Akowe(Secretary) - Todd Adams

Akewi(Librarian) - unfilled

HARAMBEE FLAME Editor

Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa